

# Exposing a Shameful Side of Human Nature

**C**ONFRONTING HERE A SCENE of undeniable horror, it brings to mind the cogent observation of Mark Twain that “[man] is the only creature that inflicts pain for sport, knowing it to be pain.”

So begins the Third District Court of Appeal of California opinion in the case of *People v. Baniqued*, capping off a year in which The HSUS shook up the underground world of animal fighting. The case, in which I was subpoenaed as an expert witness, upheld the 1999 precedent-setting felony convictions of Modesto Baniqued and others for the cruel killing of roosters in connection with a cockfight. In 2000, I responded to more than 75 requests for assistance in animal-fighting cases from prosecutors and investigators throughout the United States and Canada.

In addition to assisting law enforcement agencies in executing search warrants on suspected animal-fighting operations, my colleagues and I presented expert testimony in the ensuing trials, many of which led to felony convictions. While the publicity surrounding such cases invariably elicits calls to our office from people wanting to report information on suspected animal-fighting activities, many calls come from people who simply want to know why such activities exist at all.

I've asked myself the same question hundreds of times during my 24 years of investigating the countless ways people can be cruel to animals. Animal fighting as a public spectacle has a long and brutal history, but it is now banned in most jurisdictions: Cockfighting is illegal in 47 states and dogfighting is illegal in all 50. Yet the savage shows continue in a murky world that has been associated with illegal firearms and drugs. It would be easy to say that dogfighting and cockfighting still exist largely because of the illegal gambling involved or because of the disparity in state laws, including their enforcement, prosecution, and penalties. Certainly, these are all contributing factors, but the sad fact is that some people simply are entertained by watching animals die horribly in a pit. And that may be the most difficult aspect to change.

Nevertheless, we are determined to put an end to animal fighting and the suffering of the animal victims forced to participate in it. We are working to strengthen animal fighting laws in the states that have them and to pass new laws in the states that don't. We also are trying to close a loophole in the Federal Animal Welfare Act that undermines enforcement of state cockfighting bans. In addition to directly assisting law enforcement personnel with specific cases, we are providing thousands in the United States and abroad with training on animal-fighting issues. In the next round, we plan to make the shameful side of human nature the loser.

—Eric L. Sakach, Director, West Coast Regional Office



At the IWC meeting in Australia, HSUS Executive Vice President Patricia A. Forkan, right, cheers on demonstrators calling for the creation of a whale sanctuary.



international legal principle by its continued efforts to kill whales while the moratorium is in place.

In response to Japan's killing of endangered Bryde's and sperm whales in the fall, The HSUS petitioned the U.S. Department of Commerce in support of the department's efforts to certify Japan under the Pelly Amendment. The amendment allows the U.S. government to impose sanctions on nations, such as Japan, that undermine certain international treaties. We also filed a petition asking the U.S. Department of the Interior to certify Japan under the Pelly Amendment for undermining the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

## Protecting Wildlife from Trade

The HSUS continued our leadership role in efforts to protect wild animals from international commercial trade by

advocating full and effective implementation of the CITES. Our efforts resulted in the continued ban on international trade in elephant ivory, hawksbill sea turtle shells, and the meat and blubber

of gray and minke whales. New CITES protection was gained for a number of species including Australia's dugongs, the melodious laughing thrush of China, Asian box turtles, and mantella frogs of Madagascar.

Our efforts to put animals on the agenda of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have been recognized by the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. Two of the sea turtle costumes and others worn by HSUS volunteers at the peaceful WTO protest in Seattle in 1999 were given to the museum, which hopes to include them in an exhibition.



The HSUS successfully pushed for a continued ban on international trade in hawksbill sea turtle shells.



The National Museum of Natural History requested two HSUS sea turtle costumes for possible inclusion in an exhibition.

# Developing Respect and Compassion

## Aiding Animals in Research

The HSUS strove for passage of laws to protect former and current laboratory animals. We played a key role in securing



*HSUS efforts helped to pass a law establishing a sanctuary system for chimpanzees no longer used in biomedical research.*

passage of the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection Act, which establishes a national sanctuary system for chimpanzees no longer used in biomedical research. The chimpanzees will live in naturalistic environments and integrated social groups—a vast improvement for those

who have spent their lives behind bars in solitary confinement.

Thanks to the work of a unique coalition of industry groups and animal protection organizations, including The HSUS, the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) Authorization Act was signed into law. ICCVAM reviews alternative product testing methods that have the potential to replace, reduce, and refine the use of animals and makes recommendations for their regulatory acceptance. The legislative measure raises ICCVAM's status to a standing body, ensuring that the federal government will continue to work toward accepting alternatives to animal testing.

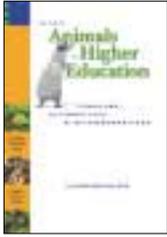
Through our Pain & Distress Initiative, we sought improvements in the treatment of laboratory animals.

The USDA responded by announcing plans to upgrade the regulation and



reporting of pain and distress in laboratory animals under the Animal Welfare Act.

In September, The HSUS published a comprehensive book on the use of animals



in education. *The Use of Animals in Higher Education: Problems, Alternatives, and Recommendations* examines

the issue from a humane and ethical perspective. The book's thesis is that harming animals under the aegis of education is unwarranted and that replacing harmful methods with nonharmful alternatives is beneficial to the quality of education and the fabric of society.

### Fighting Fur Fashions

Following last year's high-profile international investigation exposing the killing of millions of cats and dogs for their fur, Congress enacted an HSUS-conceived bill barring the import, export, and sale of products containing dog and cat fur. We also played a significant role in its implementation and provided guidance on how industry compliance can be monitored.



*An HSUS investigator holds a karakul lamb in Uzbekistan while uncovering the grisly trade in karakul lamb fur.*

The HSUS carried out an investigation into the global trade in dog and cat fur; this time finding evidence that dog and cat fur products are imported and sold in Europe. Results of this investigation were presented before the Council of the European Union in May.

In late March, our investigators uncovered another gruesome side of the fur industry when they traveled to Uzbekistan to document the cruelty behind karakul lamb fur. This trendy, high-priced fur is sold under

a variety of names including Persian lamb and broadtail. Investigators documented the shocking process that is standard for "harvesting" the silky, lightweight pelts from newborn and unborn lambs of this sheep breed specially raised for its fur. Our investigation came to the public's attention when *Dateline NBC* ran a story on it.

Our overarching Fur-Free 2000™ campaign continued its broad spectrum of outreach and education.



During the winter holidays, the HSUS Southwest Regional Office outfitted more than 100 DART buses in the Dallas metro area with HSUS fur-free signs. An estimated one million people per day were able to view the signs.

We also designed a special pin to be worn on faux fur garments or anytime to signify that animals shouldn't be harmed in the name of fashion.



*A contemporary expression of classic beauty, our pin spreads the message of compassion in fashion.*

### Combating Animal Cruelty

The HSUS continued to advocate for the passage of well-enforced state animal cruelty laws. We were successful in passing felony-level animal cruelty laws in four states and creating provisions for mandatory psychological evaluations and/or counseling for convicted animal abusers in three states. Thirty-one states now have felony-level animal cruelty laws.

New inroads have been made into defeating illegal animal fighting with the establishment of the National Illegal Animal Fighting Task Force. Law enforcement, animal control, prosecutors, judges, and government officials make up the membership and are now able to keep up with current news on the subject and share information with one another. We also worked to advance an anti-cockfighting ballot initiative in Oklahoma—one of three states to allow this barbaric practice.

In Congress we successfully worked for passage of legislation outlawing the commercial sale of videos depicting animal crushing, in which women slowly torture small animals for the viewer's sexual gratification.



HSUS/GEORGE SIMMONS

*The HSUS continued to combat animal fighting on several fronts, one being raids of illegal operations.*

### Aiding Animals in Entertainment

Circuses have increasingly come under close scrutiny for their use of animals. To combat the use of wild animals in performances, The HSUS continued to investigate in detail the issue of circus animals. We distributed more than 3,000 video and information packets to activists, humane organizations, and community members interested in fighting the use



OUTDOOR LIFE

*The HSUS helped with the creation of a documentary on circus elephants that was shown on the Outdoor Life Network.*